

COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1910.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk.

Thirty-second Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Cosford Rural District of the Cosford Union,
during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1910.

(SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COSFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL.)

Population (1891) 12354, (1901) 11618, (*Males* 5809, *Females* 5809).

Area 48572 acres. *Number of Persons per acre*, 0.2.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2703. *Number of Persons per Inhabited House*, 4.2.

I. BIRTHS. There were 263 births registered during the year (136 males and 127 females), making a birth-rate of 22.6 per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates during the past five years were as follows :—

	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Births	284	267	273	277	263
Birth-rates	24.4	22.9	23.4	23.8	22.6

II. DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes at all ages was 144 (68 males and 76 females), making a death-rate of 12.3 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates for the past five years were :—

	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Deaths	171	183	152	154	144
Death-rates ...	14.7	15.7	13.0	13.2	12.3

Infantile Mortality. There were twenty-one deaths among infants under one year of age, being 79.8 per thousand on the registered births. Six of these occurred in the Hadleigh Division of the district, and fifteen in the Lavenham Division. Three of these were due to premature birth, and four to whooping cough. The proportion of deaths under one year of age to births in the last five years was :—

1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
95.0	108.6	69.5	68.5	79.8

The Notification of Births Act (1907) has not been adopted in the district.

Zymotic Diseases. There were thirteen deaths during the year due to zymotic diseases. They were— whooping cough 7, diphtheria 3, epidemic influenza 3. The zymotic deaths and death-rates in the past five years were as follows :—

	Small pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Diarrhoea. Dysentery.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Epidemic Influenza.	Erysipelas.	Totals.	Death- rates.
1906	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	6	1	—	12	1.0
1907	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	4	1	13	1.1
1908	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	5	.4
1909	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	.2
1910	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	13	1.1

Deaths from all other causes were 131, or 11.2 per thousand of the population. The deaths in this district caused by the principal diseases and death-rates during the past five years were :—

	Phthisis.	Bronchitis. Pleurisy, Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injury.	Other Diseases.	Totals.	Death- rates.
1906 ...	8	24	24	6	97	159	13.6
1907 ...	14	21	25	4	106	170	14.6
1908 ...	6	15	18	2	106	147	12.6
1909 ...	11	21	20	7	92	151	12.9
1910 ...	5	16	14	5	91	131	11.2

III. THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT. The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified in this district during 1910 was 12, or 1.0 per thousand of the population. The cases notified during the past five years were :—

	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Continued Fever.	Diphtheria.	Memb. Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Totals.	Per Thousand of Population.
1906	—	4	—	10	—	—	—	2	16	1.3
1907	—	13	—	1	—	1	—	3	18	1.5
1908	—	7	—	3	—	1	—	2	13	1.1
1909	—	25	—	8	—	2	—	6	41	3.5
1910	—	1	—	9	—	2	—	—	12	1.0

Smallpox. There were no cases of smallpox during the year.

Scarlet Fever. There was one case at Whatfield in April, of a mild character.

Diphtheria. There were nine cases notified, but one suspected case turned out not to be diphtheria. The other eight cases were all at Kersey, and three of them proved fatal. The disease was introduced by a girl coming home from service with a sore throat. A child in the same family was taken ill and died without medical attendance, so that the disease had spread before any steps for isolation were taken. Diphtheria anti-toxin was supplied free of cost by the District Council; the M.O.H. having always a supply on hand for use amongst patients of the poorer class, which can be obtained by any medical man in the district on application free of cost.

Typhoid Fever. There were two cases notified during the year, both in one house, at Boxford. Neither proved fatal. The sanitary arrangements were imperfect. A drain was found to be blocked, causing an overflow into the well. This has since been remedied. The first case, however, had been away from home, and only returned a short time before being taken ill, so it is probable the disease was contracted elsewhere.

Puerperal Fever. None.

Erysipelas. None.

Tuberculosis. There were seven deaths in all, five of them from pulmonary tuberculosis, as compared with eighteen (eleven pulmonary) in the previous year. There were two cases notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1908, one of which died, and the other has recovered. They were both visited and instructed as to the proper precautions to be taken to prevent infection.

There is no hospital accommodation in the district for these cases.

Anthrax. There were no cases during the year.

Whooping Cough. Whooping cough has been very prevalent in the district throughout the year, and there were seven fatal cases. The schools have been closed on this account at Monks Eleigh, Kersey, Brent Eleigh, Polstead, Lindsey and Thorpe Morieux.

Mumps were also prevalent in the district, causing the schools to be closed at Monks Eleigh and Edwardstone.

IV. WATER SUPPLY. There has been no alteration in the water supply during the past year. There has been considerable difficulty in maintaining the supply at Hitcham, owing to a leak in the rising-main of the pump. Attempts to draw up the rising-main in order to locate the leak failed. Up to the present a sufficient supply has been maintained, but I fear it will be necessary before long to bore afresh. The other villages possessing public wells are :—Cockfield, Elmsett, Groton, Lindsey, Lavenham, Monks Eleigh, Polstead and Whatfield. The water from the deep wells at Elmsett and Whatfield is very little used by the inhabitants, it being deeply impregnated by iron, which gives it an unpleasant flavour; and also, in the case of the Whatfield well, on account of the difficulty in raising it. The villages almost entirely dependent on ponds for their water supply are :—Aldham, Brettenham, Kettlebaston, Milden, Naughton, Nedging, Thorpe Morieux, Preston and Wattisham.

Water Analysis. There were sixteen samples of water analysed during the year, and five were condemned as unfit for drinking purposes.

V. SEWERAGE. The street drain at Monks Eleigh was lengthened another 77 yards. The only three villages in the district provided with public sewers are, Boxford, Bildestone and Lavenham. All of these discharge into the neighbouring streams. All the new cottages built in the district are provided with pail closets, which system is gradually replacing the old one of cesspits. Lavenham alone has a public scavenger, who empties the pails twice a week, and the cesspits when required. The work has been very satisfactorily carried out.

VI. HOUSES AND COTTAGES. Ten houses have been repaired and cleaned during the year, and three cases of overcrowding have been abated. No action has been taken under parts I. and III. respectively of the "Housing of the Working Classes Act." Under part II. one owner was required to put his houses into habitable repair. There are a great many cases of overcrowding in the district which it is impossible to deal with until more accommodation is provided.

"*Housing and Town-planning Act.*" Action has been taken for the closing of two houses under the Act, and proceedings are pending for the eviction of the tenants. An inspector has been appointed, but has not yet entered on his duties.

VII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT. All the factories and workshops, including nineteen bake-offices were inspected during the year and found satisfactory. The bakehouses are all above ground. There were seventy-two outworkers' premises inspected, eleven of which are engaged in tailoring, and the remainder in horse-hair weaving. They were all found to be working under satisfactory conditions.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, has not been adopted by the Council.

VIII. CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order. There are no milkshops in the district. There has been one fresh dairyman, cowkeeper, and purveyor of milk registered during the year, and one has given up, so that the number remains the same as in 1909. There are now—one at Boxford, one at Cockfield, one at Edwardstone, one at Hitcham, two at Polstead, two at Whatfield, three at Lavenham, and one at Thorpe Morieux. With the exception of the one at Thorpe and one at Whatfield, all the milk is consumed in the district. They have all been inspected during the year and found satisfactory. The cows are all habitually grazed on grass land for the greater part of the year.

IX. SLAUGHTER HOUSES. One was ordered to be cleaned.

X. ISOLATION HOSPITAL. None.

XI. SCHOOLS. All the Public Elementary Schools were inspected during the year, and the sanitary arrangements were found to be satisfactory. The schools were closed on account of whooping cough at Monks Eleigh, Kersey, Brent Eleigh, Polstead, Lindsey, and Thorpe Morieux, and for mumps at Monks Eleigh and Edwardstone. In case of the occurrence of infectious disease in a child attending school, all children (if any) in the same house are rigorously excluded from school till all fear of infection is past. In case of an epidemic of infectious disease amongst the children, the schools are closed by the Medical Officer of Health, subject to the approval of the Medical Inspector of School-children. The medical inspection of schools is carried out by the Medical Officer appointed by the County Council.

XII. SANITARY INSPECTION. Report of Mr. Scrivener, Inspector of Nuisances. "A house-to-house inspection of the district was carried out, and 141 notices were served for the abatement of nuisances: seven of these remain at present unabated. A list of these in the various parishes is given in the Table at the end of this Report. Six houses were disinfected."

XIII. SPECIAL REPORTS. *Plague.* On account of the occurrence of cases of plague in the county, action was taken by the District Council for the extermination of rats in the district. It was decided to leave the destruction of rats to individual effort, the Council paying a penny a tail for the period of three months. A dead hare from the parish of Edwardstone was sent up to Whitehall for examination, and pronounced to have been plague-infected. Two rats subsequently sent up were pronounced free of infection. There has been no unusual mortality amongst the rats of the district. Special weekly reports have been sent up on this subject to the Local Government Board, but no steps have been taken to provide for the isolation and special treatment of suspected cases of plague in human beings.

The Tabular Statements of sickness and mortality in the district, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, are appended to this Report. Also a Tabular Statement according to a form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

ALFRED THOMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

For Whole District.

Area of District in Acres (inclusive of area covered by water)	..	48572
Total Population at all ages	... ..	11618
Number of Inhabited Houses	... ..	2703
Average Number of Persons per house	... ..	4.2

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months
under One Year of Age.

Deaths from all causes at all ages ..	144
Population, estimated to middle of 1910 ..	11618

1	2	3
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TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1910.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ... NONE.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1910.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in whole district at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities. (at all ages.)			Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	1	2	3	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	7	4	3	...	...	...	...	7	2	5	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	3	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	3	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	5	...	...	...	2	3	...	5	2	3	...
Other tubercular diseases	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	...
Cancer, malignant disease	11	...	...	...	...	4	7	11	4	7	...
Bronchitis	9	1	1	...	...	2	5	9	1	8	...
Pneumonia	7	2	...	...	...	1	4	7	1	6	...
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver } ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...
Venereal Diseases	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1
Premature Birth	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	14	...	...	...	...	4	10	14	3	9	2
Accidents	3	...	1	1	...	...	1	3	1	2	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	2	...
All other causes	72	9	2	3	...	16	42	72	26	38	8
All causes	144	21	7	7	3	35	71	144	45	88	11

Cosford Rural District

In the Administrative County of
West Suffolk.

1910.

Thirty-second Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

BY

ALFRED THOMPSON, L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng.

(Sixteenth Annual Report to the Cosford Rural
District Council.)

MARTEN & SON, SUDBURY.

Sanitary Statistics of Cosford Rural District for the year 1910.

SUBJECTS.	Aldham	Bildeston	Boxford	Brent Eleigh	Brettenham	Chelsworth	Cockfield	Edwardstone	Elmsett	Groton	Hadleigh Hamlet	Hitcham	Kersey	Kettlebaston	Lavenham	Layham	Lindsey	Milden	Monks Eleigh	Naughton	Nedging	Polstead	Preston	Semer	Thorpe Morieux	Wattisham	Whatfield	Workhouse	Total.	
Acreage	1755	1171	1325	1684	1438	877	3626	1891	1992	1560	427	4308	1510	1041	2898	2531	1230	1343	2099	980	856	3414	2006	1242	2497	1272	1599	...	48572	
Population—1901	238	788	612	182	273	199	854	416	361	358	183	755	482	129	2018	464	221	152	553	142	171	669	288	†182	370	149	317	92	11618	
" 1891	228	736	682	221	336	227	926	420	434	437	191	874	482	120	1908	542	253	160	547	144	200	745	318	†189	385	178	365	116	12354	
I. Births—	5	18	7	6	8	4	27	6	7	7	4	22	10	2	44	4	5	5	16	3	7	16	6	1	9	2	6	6	263	
1910—Rate per 1000	21.0	22.8	11.4	32.9	29.3	20.1	31.6	14.4	19.3	19.5	21.8	29.1	20.7	15.5	21.8	8.6	22.6	32.8	28.9	21.1	40.9	23.9	20.8	5.4	24.3	13.4	18.9	64.5	22.6	
1909—Rate per 1000	16.8	25.3	16.3	16.4	21.9	35.1	33.9	16.8	19.3	27.9	38.2	22.5	24.9	28.7	22.2	15.0	18.0	26.3	27.1	...	40.9	23.9	24.3	16.4	24.3	26.8	22.0	54.3	23.8	
II. Deaths, Zymotic— ... ..	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	2	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rate per 1000 ... ..	...	3.8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.3	6.2	...	0.4	4.3	...	6.5	3.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.1
" From other Causes	2	13	8	1	3	2	8	3	1	5	2	5	5	...	25	4	1	2	8	...	1	4	4	2	6	2	3	11	131	
Rate per 1000	8.4	16.4	13.0	5.4	10.9	10.0	9.3	7.2	2.7	13.9	10.9	6.5	10.3	...	12.3	8.6	4.5	13.1	14.4	...	5.8	5.9	13.8	10.9	16.2	13.4	9.4	119.5	11.2	
" Total	2	16	8	1	3	2	8	3	1	5	2	6	8	...	26	6	1	3	10	...	1	4	4	2	6	2	3	11	144	
1910—Rate per 1000	8.4	20.3	13.0	5.4	10.9	10.0	9.3	7.2	2.7	13.9	10.9	7.9	16.5	...	12.8	12.9	4.5	19.7	18.0	...	5.8	5.9	13.8	10.9	16.2	13.4	9.4	119.5	12.2	
1909—Rate per 1000	12.6	8.8	14.7	10.9	10.9	...	8.1	16.8	8.3	5.5	5.4	22.5	10.3	...	12.8	8.6	...	13.1	16.2	28.1	17.5	11.9	10.4	21.9	10.8	13.4	15.7	152.1	13.2	
III. Infectious Diseases— (Notification Act.)																														
Cholera
Croup
Diphtheria	1	8	9
Erysipelas
Puerperal Fever...
Scarlet Fever	1	...	1
Small Pox
Typhoid Fever	2	2
Typhus and other Fevers
Total	2	1	8	1	...	12	...
IV. Water Supply*	1	1	...	5	1	...	12	4	...	2	...	2	1	1	1	...	31	...
Sanitary Inspection†	11	12	2	1	3	11	6	10	5	11	7	1	1	11	4	3	1	12	1	1	10	2	2	2	4	7	...	141	...

*Public Supply. †Notices Issued.

† Excludes population of Workhouse. See column "Workhouse."